



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police remind residents to lock their vehicles**

*Teen charged with theft scheme; items stolen from 21 unlocked cars*

On the heels of a recent series of thefts from vehicles, police are reminding residents to always lock their car doors and to never leave anything valuable inside the vehicle.

Four cases involving multiple thefts from vehicles occurred in the River Hill/Clarksville area in the evening of July 22. In all, 21 vehicles were ransacked. Through investigation, the following day a 17-year-old male from Columbia was arrested and charged with felony theft scheme, multiple counts of misdemeanor theft and rogue and vagabond. He was released to the custody of his parents.

Police believe the youth began staking out the community and used a stolen bike to ride through the neighborhood and enter the vehicles, all of which were unlocked. Items stolen from the vehicles include money, jewelry, electronics and sunglasses.

Thefts from vehicles took place on the following streets overnight: Pouring Glories Way; Mystic Ocean Lane; Hellman's Way; Drum Taps Court; Perfect Calm Court; Gatekeeper Lane; Garden Walk; Golden Seeds Row; Few Star Court; and Blue Point Court.

The investigation is ongoing.

Police remind residents to follow these simple tips in preventing thefts from vehicles.

- Never leave your vehicle unlocked.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle.
- Keep any packages and shopping bags out of sight, in the trunk.
- Park in a well-lit area.

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